

HMSA



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

L A T F

March 13, 2012

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health

Re: SB 2825, SD1 – Relating to the Hawaii Immunization Registry

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Morikawa and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2825, SD1. This Bill will authorize health plans to access the immunization registry specifically for the purpose of generating immunization assessment reports so that we may help our members maintain better health conditions and prevent more dangerous and costly episodes of illness.

Keeping our members healthy through personal attention and preventive care is the cornerstone of our new model of health care delivery for our members - the patient centered medical home. Our vision is to have the primary care provider work on an individual health care regime for each of our members, including appropriate and acceptable immunizations. Taking personal responsibility and preventive measures will help minimize the opportunity for each member to endure more severe and costly health conditions.

In conjunction with this health care model, we now have incorporated incentives for providers who have met measures of success in helping our members improve their health status through preventive steps. Having access to the immunization registry is a critical factor in measuring that success.

The importance of preventive measures, including immunizations, was not better highlighted than in the Affordable Care Act (ACA). While many of the other elements of the federal health care reform will not be realized until 2014, the ACA mandated preventive health services with no cost-sharing within the first six months of the ACA's enactment, September 2010. In Hawaii, the State Administration, working with the Hawaii Association of Health Plans, reenergized the statewide school-located flu vaccination program, further exemplifying the commitment to preventive health and an appropriate immunization program.

Thank you the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2825, SD1. We appreciate the State Administration's understanding of the importance of this measure, and your favorable consideration also is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JD' followed by a flourish.

Jennifer Diesman
Vice President, Government Relations